

# TOIKE OIKE



# OIKE

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SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, SCHOOL OF SCIENCE, HURRAY, HURRAY, HURRAY

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EXTRA



-Toronto Star photo by Dick Darrell

## Sandford Fleming Ravaged by Fire

by Rob Yates

Friday, February 11 at 2:30 am., the Sir Sandford Fleming Building started to burn, creating the biggest and most far-reaching disaster the faculty of Engineering has ever suffered. The Toike talked to Dean Etkin about the effects of the fire on the Faculty and the University of Toronto.

All told, 49,000 square feet

of space was lost. The most obvious prime concern of a fire in that building is the computer. But the fire was centred in the north-east wing of the building, and the computer itself is unharmed. 7,600 of the 49,000 square feet lost was occupied by the University of Toronto Computer Centre (UTCC) and the Engineering Undergraduate Terminal (EUT) however, so the facility will be closed for some time. Further breakdown of the lost space showed the loss of lecture rooms 126 and 136, which accounted for 6,200 square feet. The library lost 7,000 and the Media Centre 2,000 square feet.

The most devastating loss by far was not one concerning com-

puters or libraries, but the loss of a number of professor's and graduate students' offices. This loss accounted for 9,400 square feet of the space. The offices will be relatively easy to replace, compared with the years of work, time and anxiety put into the research contained in these areas. Among the hardest hit were Professors Sedra, Salama, Holmes and Cousin of Electrical and Dr. Stoicheff of Engineering Science, who lost years of work and essentially part of their lives in the blaze.

Most of the Faculty's historical collection was also lost in the fire. This material, as tended scrupulously by Professor L.E. Jones for years was on the fourth floor, in the area most affected.

A major physical repercussion associated with a fire is water damage. Even though only the north-east wing of the Sandford Fleming Building was destroyed the entire Galbraith, Sandford Fleming and some of the Wallberg building suffered water damage. The water flowed in torrents through the corridors of the Galbraith building, leaving a 1" thick layer of charcoal from the Sandford Fleming roof on the floor of the Galbraith Building's

front lobby. Holes were drilled through the sides of the building to alleviate the water pressure; the water was everywhere, lifting tiles and leaving black char behind.

The building itself has quite a history associated with it, and was even before the fire, a piece of history itself. A number of our Professors remember their days here when the Sir Sandford Fleming building was the Physics Building. Dean Etkin arrived at the U of T in 1937 and attended many lectures, labs and the library in this building throughout his career as a student in Engineering Physics. The Dean particularly recalled his many lectures in SF126 given by the well-known Professor John Satterly. Many years later, as chairman of the Engineering Science department, Dean Etkin was responsible for the establishment of the third floor Engineering Science common room and the Engineering Science department office, more recently occupied by Dr. B. Stoicheff.

But when has disaster ever gotten the engineer down? After this week of shifted classes and

cancellations, things will be back to normal Monday February 21 at 9 am. The Galbraith building will be open then and all lecture and tutorial rooms and laboratories will be in operation. There may be one or two labs not quite ready by then. This shouldn't affect too many, so students are advised to show up as usual for all classes. Alternate classrooms to replace the lost tutorial rooms on the 3rd floor of Sandford Fleming are posted in the Galbraith Building lobby as of Monday morning and replacement rooms for lecture halls SF136 and 126 will be announced by tomorrow in classes and posted as well in the Galbraith lobby.

Contrary to some rumours around, there is no chance of having an extra week tacked on the end of the term and exams will go as shown on the calendar. The only possible changes may be the writing of one or two labs or exams on a Saturday, from 9 am to noon.

Over 3/4 of the Engineering library was saved and is being dried in the Sigmund Samuel library, level A. The library has been moved to the lowest level of the Sigmund Samuel Library, the Science and Medicine library (south end) which has enough space for the engineer-

ing library. It will become a fully functional lending library in a matter of a few weeks.

There have been no decisions yet as to the destiny of the building. The Dean will be getting together with President John Evans and others in the next few weeks to decide on what form the rebuilding will take. Etkin would like to see us get "a complete new building out of it, in which we could consolidate U of T's computing facilities and provide a modern expanded centre for the engineering faculty".

This is the stand he will be taking when the decision makers start to talk and the Engineering Society would certainly like to see his plan implemented.

Despite the irreplaceable losses incurred, the Dean sees the disaster as possibly a "blessing in disguise" in the long run. The ultimate result will be a vast improvement, but will be several years before it really materializes; everyone, students in particular, must suffer a little now. "Every cloud has a silver lining."

I hope this is true, and I am quite sure, after having myself taken numerous lectures in SF126 that whatever happens to the building, we can only go up from here.



Lecture room SF136 where the fire was first detected.

-Globe and Mail, Erik Christensen



Galbraith building stairway looking down to Engineering Library doors.





Firemen examine the former attic of the building.



Unconfirmed reports state that the Engineering Science chariot, which previously resided in the Sandford Fleming attic, has now moved to the second floor. It apparently sustained only minor scorching, and is structurally sound.



Panoramic view of SF126, taken from the northern side.



Doorway to SF126.



Engineering Media Centre room.



Secretary's office (SF326) for Electronic Devices Group.

# COMPUTER SYSTEM STATUS

by Bonnie Carson & Jim Burpee  
 Although the fire did not actually damage the Engineering undergraduate computer Terminal, the physical location of EUT is no longer useable because of fire damage to the second floor directly above. The card reader and line printer, as well as, the keypunches appear to be all right. They have been removed and are being checked out by the manufacturer. It will now be necessary to relocate EUT, and the university has been asked to supply a room.

The machine room suffered smoke

and water damage, but the equipment there also appears to be all right and is now being checked by the manufacturer. The services here will probably be able to operate in the same location.

Losses included several information and advisory offices.

UTCC hopes to have its operations fully back to normal within two weeks. This will depend on the report on the equipment and on cable.

The Computer Research Facility on the second floor is in the process of mopping up. Its offices were

totally gutted, and the equipment in the lab is now being checked out. As downstairs, the equipment appears fine, but a caution was added, that this type of fire may breed an acid that would damage electrical parts. CRF hopes to be operational very soon.

Currently, UTCC is hooked up to an IBM168 at IBM in Don Mills. The phone lines to IBM are quite slow at 1/3 of the normal speed. Therefore, the Centre requests that all users use the available options to reduce the amount of job printout. Instructions for this are available from the computer centre. Hopefully by today, faster lines will be in use that will double the speed. Two line printers are in use at the Arts and Science Undergraduate Terminal in Sidney Smith hall. These printers operate at 300 lines/min. compared to the regular 1100lines/min. printer at EUT.

At present, keypunching service is available at ASUT from 10:00am to 6:00pm. Card reading will be done from 10:00am to 7:00pm, and printing until 7:30pm. Weekend service is not yet known. If the regular IBM 370-165 can be made ready as soon as Monday, then all efforts will go into that. If this is not possible, weekend service will likely be using the current set-up. The set-up at ASUT will be improved if the 370-165 is down longer than expected.

## STATUS OF CURRENT SYSTEM

- 1) Jobs with over 3000 lines will be printed at LSSC and delivered to remotes via courier service.
- 2) No ALA buffer loads available.
- 3) All /\* ROUTE cards should be removed from jobs.
- 4) Special forms requests will be filed on tape at LSSC and eventually run on S/360 (two day turnaround). Output will be filed at ARTS and SCIENCE, Room 2105.
- 5) No user mountable 2314's. (Users

needing emergency mounts should call Herb Gugel at 7286.

- 6) WATBOL now available.
- 7) No special routing for ATS
- 8) Class B available.
- 9) No OMR.
- 10) Users are requested to code NO SOURCE to help free up printers.
- 11) Only one 800 BPI mount at a time.
- 12) Tape Service is available now in AST Terminal, Sidney Smith Building, room 2100, phone Sylvia May or Marg Doherty at 978-3003 or 978-3020.



Milk crates were used to transport the books.

## Engineering Library Survives

by Bonnie Carson & Doug Chmara

The Engineering Library, due to the quick thinking and work of firemen during the fire, has managed to save about 90% of its collection. The books were covered with tarpaulins very early in the fire and thus saved from extensive damage. Becker Milk Company donated 1000 milk cartons, and the work of volunteers has enabled the books to be removed in time to effectively dry them out. It was expected that the moving would be finished yesterday afternoon (Wednesday, February 16). Most of the collection will dry on the shelves of the renovated Science and Medicine Library, although some volumes are being chemically treated and dried with fans. A very small number of irreplaceable objects, mainly engineering theses, are being freeze-dried. The entire drying-out process will



take about 2 weeks.

The collection is now completely disorganized. Once the books have dried, stacks will have to be set up and the volumes ordered before the library can reopen in its new location.

Most of the collection that was lost were current journals and books, from the last 15 years, most of which will be relatively easy to reorder and replace. It is mainly a matter of finding the money for their replacement. Many of the older materials, which would have been much more difficult to replace, were in storage at the Science and Medicine Library and were not in the fire.

Students with books out from the Engineering Library are asked to return them to either the Robarts, Sigmund Samuel or Science and Medicine libraries by February 28.

## A Personal Appeal from Prof. L.E. Jones

As is now widely known, I am one of the heavy personal losers because of the disastrous fire, which destroyed the bulk of my more than 40 years' accumulation of office files, manuscripts, research material and documents, notes, books and instruments — plus a considerable collection of historical material which would hopefully have provided the basis for a Faculty museum. Normally, the necessary sorting, organizing and ultimate disposition would have been accomplished in the months prior to and following my retirement (on June 30, 1975) but a heavier-than-usual academic programme in my last term and an extra-ordinarily demanding (albeit voluntary) commitment to the Faculty's (1973) Centennial Lecture Series publication and the University's (1977) Sesquicentennial resulted in the simple and attractive expedient of putting my accumulations into temporary storage until "the heat was off". The only available space for the necessary time-frame was in the attic space of the Sandford Fleming building, but, as we now sadly know, a more disastrous kind of heat "came on" and did away with the bulk of my tangible intellectual possessions.



Professor L.E. Jones and the remains of his collection.

At the risk of waxing too personal (—because wax is inflammable tool), it can be said that the prime occupancy of my life has been in the privilege of service to others. One of the compelling reasons for my vast time-expenditure on the Centennial publication, "The Next Hundred Years", was the overwhelming conviction that this book should be in the hands of every one of our engineering students, both undergraduate and graduate. The most welcome sym-

pathy that you could express in the present crisis would be to secure a copy of "The Next Hundred Years" and keep it (—in a safe place!) for your information and guidance as you help to cope with "the next century". The book is available at the Engineering Society Stores at the fractional-cost price of only \$1.00 per copy.

L.E. Jones  
P.Eng.

## Engineering Leads the Way

At the meeting of the Engineering Alumni on Tuesday (Feb. 15) a motion was passed to make the rebuilding of the Engineering Faculty its number 1 priority in fund raising. All other projects are now secondary to this.

The loss of the Sir Sandford Fleming building has created an immediate need. We must replace the 49,000 square feet of lost space and why not get more while we have a chance. The insurance will at best restore things to what they once were. Funds which are to be raised can be earmarked for the Engineering Faculty and this recent tragedy may turn out to be a benefit in terms of what we can do to make the most of it. Engineering Alumni fundraising, which can be very substantial, is aimed at the Faculty rebuilding. More than a building was lost and the Faculty needs help to survive.

Students with books out from the Engineering Library are asked to return them to either the Robarts, Sigmund Samuel or Science and Medicine libraries by February 28.

Next week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, the Engineering Alumni are holding a fund-raising Telethon. This is an excellent chance for all students to help out the faculty. There is a direct benefit in terms of promised funding to the LGMB for its upcoming record. The amount is contingent on how much students can raise. Another benefit is the chance in a draw to win a trip for two to either Bermuda or the Bahamas. The really important point is that the faculty needs help. One evening out of a week for only a couple of hours is not much. Let's get this faculty re-built soon — we all need it!!

The Telethon will be held from 6:30-9:30 on February 22, 23 and 24th at Alumni House, across Willcocks Street from New College. Supper is available at N.C. for free beforehand — just report to Alumni House.

Either call Jim Picknell at the Engineering Society offices (978-2917) or leave your name and number with the Engineering Society, or call Alumni House and let them know you plan to be there.

### NOW WE REBUILD

#### TEAM CONCRETE

Regrettably must announce our temporary cessation of construction of this year's championship

#### CONCRETE CANOES

(due to unforeseen circumstances)

However, we shall continue!

Openings are still available for marine architects, olympian paddlers, general labourers and anyone else (any department, faculty, or college welcomed).

Until we have a workroom available again, if interested call:

Michael Lockey 751-2508  
David Kriger 978-2471

## TOIKE OIKE

This is a special issue of the TOIKE OIKE, the University of Toronto Undergraduate Engineering Society newspaper. The circulation of this issue is 26,000, distributed free to all Engineering students and Engineering Alumni.

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All non-credited photos by: Professor L.E. Jones.  
Reprints of any of these photos are available at cost (in colour) from Professor Jones.

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